

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Discussion Item:**

703 KAR 5:170, Kentucky Highly Skilled Educator Program Criteria (Final)

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.070, KRS 158.782, 703 KAR 5:170

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) give final approval to 703 KAR 5:170?

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** In 1992, 703 KAR 5:170 established the criteria for the Kentucky Distinguished Educator Program. In 1998, the name of the program was changed to the Kentucky Highly Skilled Educator program. The regulation that described the criteria for submitting an application to the program and the subsequent process for selecting candidates was never updated with the new name. In addition, the process for selecting candidates has been modified and the recommended changes reflect current practice. Finally, the existing method for determining compensation for Highly Skilled Educators has been added to the language in the regulation to also reflect current practice.

The changes being recommended to this regulation are necessary to reflect the current practice in selecting applicants to the program, to eliminate confusion caused by the incorrect name currently used in regulation and to set out the method for compensating Kentucky's Highly Skilled Educators. The Board reviewed this regulation in August and it is now presented for final approval.

### **Policy Issues and Options:**

It is important that regulations are accurate and up to date in their language. Many of these changes are to ensure that the regulation is current regarding practice and vocabulary. The major change is to codify in regulation the compensation mechanism for highly skilled educators. The policy options are to leave in place the existing regulatory language or to make the necessary changes to allow the regulation to reflect current practice.

**Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):**

Staff recommends that the KBE give final approval to 703 KAR 5:170. These changes will ensure that the Highly Skilled Educator program criteria are accurate and thus produce the most qualified set of applicants each year.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

This program provides a higher level of service to the assistance level schools that are in need of the most intensive services to reach proficiency.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

Feedback from the review by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council will be provided to the Board via letter from that group.

**Contact Person:**

Stephen Schenck, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Leadership and School Improvement  
505/564-2116  
[Stephen.Schenck@education.ky.gov](mailto:Stephen.Schenck@education.ky.gov)

---

**Deputy Commissioner**

---

**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

October 2007